

VERIFIED GROSS MASS

Implementation of the SOLAS amendments effective from 1st July 2016



INTRODUCTION

Effective 1st July 2016, SOLAS Chapter VI, Regulation 2, paragraph 6, will be enforced, which states: *A container packed with packages and cargo items should not be loaded onto a ship to which the SOLAS regulations apply unless the master or his representative and the terminal representative have obtained, **in advance of vessel loading**, the verified actual gross mass of the container.*



This means that The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted amendments to the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention, now demand Verified Gross Mass (VGM) for containers before they can be loaded on board a container vessel.

The regulation clearly mentions that the Shipper is responsible to obtain and document the Verified Gross Mass of a packed container.

Effective 1st July'2016:

- It is mandatory to declare the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) of a packed container before loading on board vessels within a prescribed cut-off date / time to the shipping line and / or port terminal authorities.
- The VGM must be declared by the shipper or the shipper's authorized representative.
- In effect, without the declaration of VGM, containers will not be loaded on board any vessel

Please note that this will be applicable for all shipments as from 01.07.2016.

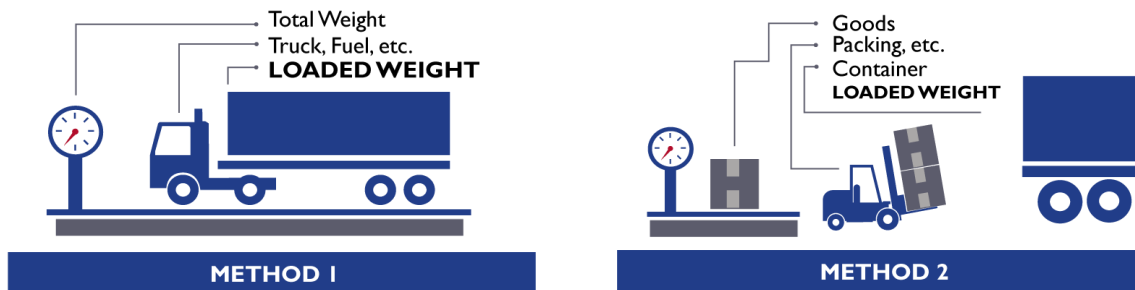
WHY

Default declaration of cargo weight is a major hazard that may results in cargo claims, structural damages to vessels and also poses a significant risk to the lives of staff.

To ensure the safety of vessels and workers, the IMO as a body under The United Nations, will as from 01-07-2016 require Shippers to declare the gross weight on all containers. This UN requirement will be implemented in national legislation in all countries worldwide. The headline is: *"A packed container will not be loaded on board vessels unless the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) of the container has been provided to the Carrier and terminal, or their representatives, sufficiently in advance."*

HOW

The Verified Gross Mass (VGM) is the total gross mass of a packed container including the tare of the container. VGM can be obtained by one of the two methods described below:



Method 1 – Using calibrated and certified equipment / weighbridge, the shipper weighs the packed container at the end of the stuffing operation before delivery to the port terminal.

Method 2 – The shipper weighs all packages, cargo items, pallets, dunnage and other packing and securing material and adds the tare mass of the container. The total sum finally obtained is the weight to be provided. This method is subject to certification and approval by the competent national authority of the State in which the packing and sealing of the container was completed.

For further information, please refer to the SOLAS official guidelines.

SUBMIT

What information do the shipping line need?

“VGM weight” explicitly named as such (total weight incl. container).

Deadline for VGM?

VGM must be included in the final load list or the container cannot be stowed for the intended departure. Where possible, we will maintain the present local deadlines and documentation closing as for final and complete cargo details.

How to pass on VGM information?

You are to give us the VGM information together with your shipment instruction. You may provide the VGM information in writing to the usual messages and methods already established with us.

In gate/delivery at terminals?

Procedures will depend on the individual terminal’s decisions and agreements.

Mandatory Information?

- Container Number: The Container number mentioned on the VGM - certificate
- VGM Weight: This is the Weight mentioned in the VGM certificate from shipper
- VGM Authorized Person: This is the Name of the Authorized person identified as the shipper or its representative, whom are responsible for issuing the VGM certificate

Finally, it must be said that this new rules and regulations as become applicable from July 1st 2016 without affecting the applicability of bill of lading and/or sea waybill terms and its condition.

VGM FORM FOR CARGO INFORMATION

FORM FOR CARGO INFORMATION Transport Document No.....

Shipper:	Consignee:
Carrier:	
Name/Means of transport:	
Instructions or other matters:	
Port/Place of departure:	Port/Place of destination:
General description of the cargo (type of material/particle size):	
Gross mass [kg or tonnes]:	
CONTAINER	
Container No:	
Verified gross mass ¹⁾ [kg or tonnes]:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	General cargo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Load units
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bulk cargo
	Specification of bulk cargo*
	Stowage factor
	Angle of repose
	Trimming procedures
	Chemical properties if potential hazard†
	*If applicable
	† For example IMO class, UN No. or bulk cargo shipping name in accordance with the Swedish Transport Agency's Regulations (TSFS 2010:166) on maritime transport of solid bulk cargoes (IMSBC).
Special properties of importance of the cargo	
Additional certificate(s)*	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of moisture content and transportable moisture limit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weathering certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exemption certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)
	* If required

¹⁾ Container with the gross mass not verified by weighing shall not be loaded onboard the ship.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the consignment is fully and accurately described and that the given test results and other specifications are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and can be considered as representative for the cargo to be loaded.

Signature

Name/status:

Signature on behalf of the shipper

.....
Company/organization:

.....
Place and date:

.....
Place and date:

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